प्राप्त हुई कुछ शिकायतों को ध्यान में रखते हुए विशेष दल के निष्कर्षों और इसके बाद की स्थिति की पुनरीक्षा करने का पिछले वर्ष निर्णय लिया गया था। यह कार्य प्रगति पर है।

Double Cylinder facility to Consumers

377. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that double cylinders were easily available to consumers from their respectiv dealers in recent past;

(b) whether this facility has been withdrawn recently without any sound basis;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) whether Government propose to revive this facility in near future; and

(e) if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) to (e) A second cylinder is released to consumers in a planned manner subject to backlogs in LPG supplies and product availability. In view of the recent Gulf crisis, shortages in the product availability and considerable backlogs, release of a second cylinders has been withheld till the situation improves.

Exploration of oil by foreign companies

378. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVILA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICAL be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the foreign companies which have been invited for oil exploration in selected blocks in India; and

(b) the reasons for not inviting Indian companies for the said purpose?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): No. fresh invitation has been given to any foreign oil companies for oil exploration in India so far. However, under Third Round of bidding, contracts with following five foreign oil companies were signed in 1987/1988 for oil exploration in 9 off shore blocks of India:

Name of Company	Name of block
(i) Chevron-Texaco	KG-OS-I, P-OS-II, KG-OS-VII, MN-OS-I.
(ii) Shell . .	KK-OS-II, KK-OS-IV
(iii) IPC . .	KG-OS-IV
(iv) BHP . .	KK-OS-VI
(v) AMOCO .	KG-OS-V

(b) Private Indian companies were free to participate and bid for offshore acreage under the Third Round which were offered on a production sharing basis. However, Indian companies were to possess adequate financial capability and necessary technical back up arrangement and it was intended that their participation in the Third Round should not involve any outgo of foreign exchange, since the basic objective of the Third Round was to attract foreign risk capital in oil exploration in India.

Ban on Smoking

379. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to ban smoking at public places in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and